

Remarks

In the official action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 12-19 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,426,722 to Sievenpiper, et al.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to more clearly differentiate them from Sievenpiper. Claim 1 now recites that the antenna driving element is "disposed adjacent the opening in the conductive plane on a side of the conductive plane which is remote from said array of conductive elements." As shown in Figures 2b, 2c and 2e of the present application, the antenna driving element is disposed on a side of the conductive plane that is opposite (remote) from the side which is adjacent the array of conductive elements 12. In Sievenpiper '722, the antennas shown in Figures 8a and 8b cited by the Examiner are disposed on the same side of the conductive plane as are the conductive elements 12.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in terms of claims 7-11 and 20-24. The Examiner will note that claims 7 and 20 have been converted from dependent claims to independent claims. While the breadth of those two claims have been broadened in making the amendment from dependent to independent format, the same novelty conferring features added by claims 7 and 20 are still found in those respective claims.

New claim 26 is similar to original claim 1, but instead of reciting an antenna driving element, claim 26 recites instead a waveguide. Similarly, new claim 36 is similar to original claim 13, but instead of reciting "an antenna driving element", new claim 36 recites instead a "waveguide."

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

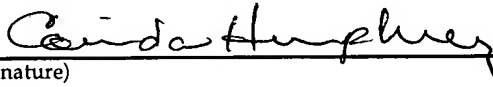
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 2, 2005

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Corinda Humphrey

(Name of Person Signing)

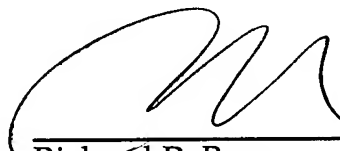


(Signature)

February 2, 2005

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Respectfully submitted,



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